



Welcome Thoreau Families!

Parent Information Session
Wednesday, August 18, 2021



We will begin at 8:00.

While you are waiting, familiarize yourself with the tools of this platform. Due to the large size of the session, we will have some tools turned off.

We appreciate your patience as we learn to use this new video conferencing tool!

The screenshot shows the Zoom Meeting Participant interface. At the top, it says "Zoom Meeting Participant" and "6 Speaker View". The interface is dark-themed. At the bottom, there is a toolbar with several icons. A yellow box on the right side of the screenshot contains a list of seven numbered items corresponding to the icons in the toolbar.

1. Mute/ unmute mic
2. Start/ stop video
3. View participants
4. Open Chat window
5. Emojis & "raise hand"
6. Change view
7. Leave call

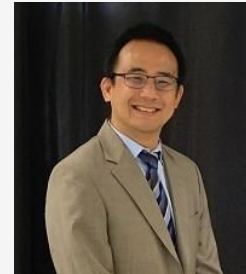
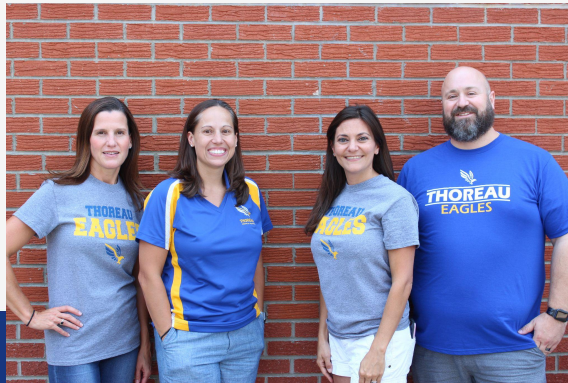
Topics for Today

- Admin introductions
- School day logistics
- Thoreau MS - What do you need to know?
- Technology
- Health & Safety Updates
- After School Program
- Upcoming Events



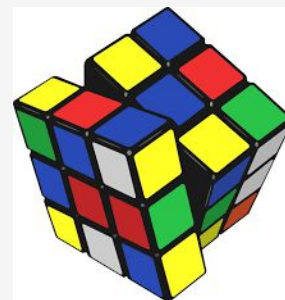
Introductions - The Administrative Team

- Ms. Teresa Khuluki, Principal
- Ms. Rebecca Aguilar, Director of Student Services
- Mr. Greg Luongo, 8th Grade Assistant Principal
- Ms. Tracy Bromberg, 7th Grade Assistant Principal
- Mr. Jihoon Shin, 7th/8th Grade Assistant Principal



Transitioning to Middle School

- Post 2020 -Five Days a Week
 - Structured school environment vs self-directed at home
 - Consider executive functioning and ability to stay on task
- Build community and trusting relationships
- Maintain high academic standards balanced with meeting students where they are
- Increased independence of an adolescent





2021-2022 Thoreau Middle School

Daily Bell Schedule

7:30 am - 2:15 pm

| Gold (odd) | Blue (even) | Time |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 7:30 - 9:02 |
| 3 | 4 | 9:07 - 10:35 |
| 5 | 6 | 10:40 - 12:40 |
| 7 | 8 | 12:45 - 2:15 |

3rd Period - Advisory

9:07-9:30: EIA Meeting Time

9:30-9:45: Break

9:50-10:35: Eagle Time

Lunch Schedule (5th/6th)

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| A Lunch | Lunch: 10:40am-11:10am Class: 11:10am-12:40pm | C Lunch | Class: 10:40am-11:40am Lunch: 11:40am-12:10pm Class: 12:10pm-12:40pm |
| B Lunch | Class: 10:40am-11:10am Lunch: 11:10am-11:40am Class: 11:40am-12:40pm | D Lunch | Class: 10:40am-12:10pm Lunch: 12:10pm-12:40pm |

Thoreau Middle School 2021-2022 Blue/Gold Calendar

KEY:

B

Blue/Even

G

Gold/Odd

| August 2021 | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 NT | 10 NT | 11 NT | 12 NT | 13 TW |
| 16 SP | 17 TW | 18 SD | 19 SP | 20 TW |
| 23 G/F | 24 B | 25 G | 26 B | 27 G |
| 30 B | 31 G | | | |

| September 2021 | | | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| | | 1 B | 2 G | 3 H |
| 6 H | 7 B | 8 G | 9 B | 10 G |
| 13 B | 14 G | 15 B | 16 G | 17 B |
| 20 G | 21 B | 22 G | 23 B | 24 G |
| 27 B | 28 G | 29 B | 30 G | |

| October 2021 | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| | | | | 1 B |
| 4 G | 5 B | 6 G | 7 B | 8 G |
| 11 SP/H | 12 B | 13 G | 14 B | 15 G |
| 18 B | 19 G | 20 B | 21 G | 22 B |
| 25 G | 26 B | 27 G | 28 B | 29* G/ER |

| November 2021 | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------|------------|---------|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| 1 TW/H | 2 TW/H | 3 B | 4 G | 5 B |
| 8 G | 9 B | 10 G | 11 B/ER | 12 G |

| December 2021 | | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| | | 1 G | 2 B | 3 G |
| 6 B | 7 G | 8 B | 9 G | 10 B |

| January 2022 | | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI |
| 3 B | 4 G | 5 B | 6 G | 7 B |
| 10 G | 11 B | 12 G | 13 B | 14 G |

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF STUDENT ADVISORY?

RELATIONSHIPS

Connection with a caring adult: Connecting personally and academically on a regular basis with an advisory teacher who serves as a coach/mentor.

Connection with peers: Building relationships and sharing identities as people, as students, as community members

Engagement and Fun: Pursuing connection and wellness

Relevance: Addressing real life personal and current events/challenges that matter to students.

RESILIENCE

COMMUNITY

Belonging and Safety: Creating a responsive culture within the advisory as well as the whole school community

Identity: Affirming identities as individuals and as part of the community

Student Voice: Elevating students as leaders within Advisory and across the school community

Planning for the Future: Developing postsecondary awareness and decision making

Skill Development: Growing in transferable skills through goal setting and reflection

EMPOWERMENT

What are Interdisciplinary Teams?

- Teams provide a great structure for students to make additional connections within the building
- The team is comprised of an English Teacher, Science Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, and Counselor who work with a group of around 140 students
- Your child's team assignment will be indicated on their schedule





Sample Student Schedule

Schedule House
Wolfpack

Counselor Name
Aldridge

Schedule Information

| Per | Term | Section ID | Course | Meet Days | Teacher | Room |
|-----|------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------|
| 1 | S1 | 712033-17 | 712033 - Health & PE 7 | All Odd | Dowell, D. | Gym1 |
| 2 | S1 | 139067-02 | 139067 - Theatre Arts Appr | All Even | Korovesis, E. | C-107 |
| 3 | YR | 994700-35 | 994700 - TA/Activity Gr 7 | All Odd | Brimage, J. | A-119 |
| 4 | YR | 411536-06 | 411536 - Invest Env Sci HN | All Even | Jacobs, M. | A-233 |
| 5 | YR | 111036-07 | 111036 - English 7 HN | All Odd | Riva, S. | A-116 |
| 6 | S1 | 826332-03 | 826332 - FACS 1 | All Even | McCormick, A. | B-115 |
| 7 | YR | 311136-06 | 311136 - Mathematics 7 HN | All Odd | Sliter, S. | A-121 |
| 8 | YR | 235536-19 | 235536 - US History 7 HN | All Even | Brimage, J. | A-119 |
| 9 | YR | 993700-04 | 993700 - Team Desig 7th Gr | | Wolfpack, S. | |

Lockers

Lockers are optional! After the second week of school, the process to request a locker will be shared with students and families



Introductions - The Counseling Staff



- Mr. Eric Fishman Ravens Team (7th) & Wombats Team (8th)
- Ms. Jill Gallagher Goats Team (7th)
- Ms. Frangca Lee Penguins Team (7th) & Hawks Team (8th)
- Mr. Scott Aldridge Wolfpack Team (7th) & Falcons Team (8th)
- Ms. Kerrie Turner Turtles Team (8th)

Attendance

If you know your student will be absent, please contact the front office using the contact information below.

703-846-8080

ThoreauMSAttendance@fcps.edu

Students should check Schoology and follow-up with teachers upon return from an absence. If your child will be absent three or more days, they should visit the main office and request the pre-arranged absence form.

ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW



Transportation / Buses

FCPS' Office of Facilities and Transportation is determining the bus routes for the upcoming school year. With the bus driver shortage that many school systems are experiencing, they are having to develop some creative solutions for transporting students to and from school. Some bus drivers will be doing two runs so drop off and pick up times may be unusual. You will likely find out your student's bus information later this week (around Thursday, 8/19).



Kiss & Ride



What Should I Expect in a Typical Class Period?

- Engagement Model
- Variety of instructional practices
 - Opening Message - Fostering community
 - Mini-Lesson - Whole group direct instruction
 - Work Time - Independent or breakout groups
 - Debrief & Reflection
- Interactive technology tools
- Brain break times built in



Health & Physical Education (HPE)

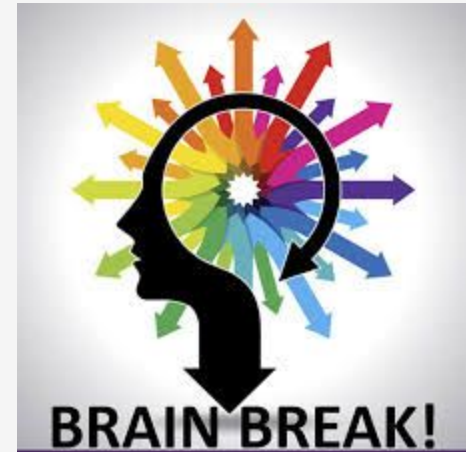


- Required for all students
- Students will “dress out” for class
- Students will have access to locker rooms and an HPE locker to store their belongings
- Students may utilize athletic clothing from home or choose to purchase a Thoreau HPE uniform (athletic shoes required)
- Our HPE teachers will work with students in the first weeks of school to set expectations and inform them of the steps to purchase a uniform if they select this option.
- An optional towel rental service is available for your child.

Brain Break

FCPS division-wide initiative

- 15 minute “break” during 3rd period Advisory
- Brief break from academics and opportunity for socialization
- No cell phone use during this time
- We will be surveying students to get their ideas!





Away for the Day

All electronic devices to include, but not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, personal laptops* and any other communication device must be powered off and in student backpacks upon entering the building and until the 2:15 PM dismissal.

Cell phones may be used after the 2:15 PM bell of each school day.

The use of social media, taking/posting pictures, playing games, and other technology features are not allowed at all times.

*Personal laptops can be used for instructional purposes ONLY if a current FCPS On opt-out form is on file with Thoreau Middle School.



Away for the Day

Response to inappropriate use of electronic devices:

- 1st time- Device confiscated and brought to the front office. Student can pick up the device at the end of the school day. Staff contacts home.
- 2nd time- Device confiscated and brought to the front office. Parent/Guardian pick up required.
- 3rd time- Device confiscated and brought to the front office. Parent/Guardian pick up required. Conference will be held with AP, student and parent.



Technology

FCPSOn

- Technology used to amplify and support instruction.
- Students will be issued laptops and chargers on the first day of school.
- Highly recommend backpack with laptop pocket.
- Please follow all procedures and have a name tag visible on the laptop



Schoology




- We will not use Blackboard 24-7 Learning or BBCU
- Schoology has a connected web conferencing tool, Zoom
- Schoology works with Google Drive
- You will need a SIS/ParentVUE account to login to Schoology
- Parent accounts will be available mid-August
- Students can log in using their FCPS student ID and password.
 - Students will not see any classes until the grading period starts
- As a parent or guardian, you will be able to use Schoology to view: your child's class, assignments and participation, calendar, teacher comments, scores, and feedback

Schoology & ParentVUE

What's the difference?



| SIS (ParentVUE) Student Information System | SCHOOLGY Learning Management System (LMS) |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Class Schedules● Attendance● Grade Book of Record● Progress Reports● Student Records  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Course Information: resources, calendars, assignments, announcements from teachers.● Access various tools designed to facilitate student learning and communication● Teacher feedback on some assignments |

Health and Safety Updates



Health and Safety Document

Updates to the Health and Safety Guidance Document have been made in accordance with new guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD).

Key updates include:

- Universal masking for fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated staff, students, and visitors
- Physical distancing changes due to the prioritized need to offer in-person instruction to all students
- Layered prevention strategies – situation specific
- Parental Guardian Health Screening Commitment Form – discontinued

For additional information, please refer to the Health and Safety Guidance Document for topic specific updates.

FCPS Layered Prevention Strategies

- All students, unvaccinated staff, staff, faculty and visitors wear face coverings while indoors on school property (to include the buildings, school buses and other school-provided vehicles)
- Students will be able to remove their masks at lunch while eating, but will put them back on when they are finished.
- Bus/van passengers and staff **MUST** wear masks.
- Students and staff are not required to wear masks outdoors.
- One of the most important prevention strategies guidelines is screening students daily for any signs of illness prior to leaving home for school. Any student who is ill or presents with COVID-like symptoms is to remain at home.
- Measures will be implemented to ensure that common areas and equipment, and personal workspaces, are regularly cleaned and sanitized.



Face Mask GUIDELINES

| Setting | Fully Vaccinated Individuals | Not Fully Vaccinated Individuals |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| INSIDE FCPS Buildings and Buses | Mask Required | Mask Required |
| OUTSIDE FCPS Property | No Mask Required | Mask Recommended |

Protocols for Potential Temporary COVID-19 Closure



| In-Person Closure Type | Threshold to Initiate In-Person Closure | Student Support During Closure |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Individual Student(s)</p> | <p>Student(s) is directed by their health provider or local health department to quarantine or isolate; or FCPS is directed by the local health department to pause a student's access to in-person instruction while contact tracing is implemented as a matter of public health, but their school and class remain open for all other students.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The student's school and class remain open for all other students</p> | <p>Students will complete asynchronous assignments made by their teacher(s). Assignments will be accessed through the Learning Management System (e.g. Schoology) or be available for pick up at the school.</p> |
| <p>Individual Teacher</p> | <p>Teacher is directed by their health provider or local health department to quarantine or isolate; or FCPS is directed by the local health department to pause a teacher's access to in-person teaching while contact tracing is implemented as a matter of public health;</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The teacher's school and class remain open for students.</p> | <p>Schools will secure a substitute / alternate coverage for continuity of in-person instruction for the teacher's class(es).</p> |

Protocols for Potential Temporary COVID-19 Closure *(contd.)*



| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <p>Class</p> | <p>FCPS is directed by the local health department to temporarily close the class as a matter of public health while contact tracing and case investigation is conducted, respond to an outbreak, or to address other health matters</p> | <p>All students and staff in the impacted class will transition to synchronous virtual learning for that class (period for secondary students) until the class can reopen.</p> <p>During such time, secondary students in the impacted class would access work for their other classes via asynchronous assignments made by their teacher(s).</p> <p>Assignments will be accessed through the Learning Management System (e.g. Schoology) or be available for pick up at the school.</p> |
| <p>School</p> | <p>FCPS is directed by the local health department to temporarily close the entire class as a matter of public health to conduct contact tracing and case investigation, respond to an outbreak, or address other public health matters.</p> | <p>All students and staff at the school will transition to synchronous virtual learning to ensure continuity of learning until in-person instruction can resume</p> |
| <p>Division</p> | <p>FCPS is directed by the local or state health officials, or Executive Order to temporarily close the division as a matter of public health.</p> | <p>All students and staff will transition to synchronous virtual learning to ensure continuity of learning until in-person instruction can resume. All students already have access to the technology should this transition be needed.</p> |

Cafeteria & Meals

- Free breakfast and full lunch service including hot lunches for all students
- Students may not arrive earlier than 7:10 AM. Students may pick up breakfast from the cafeteria “grab and go.”
- A la carte items will be phased in- MySchoolBucks
- Vending machines will be phased in
- We have seating for 450 students but each lunch has approximately 300 students assigned
- Masks are required, except when eating





Health...what ifs?

- Ongoing communication from FCPS - Check the webpage!
- Focused on Returning Strong - Remaining Open
- Rely on Layered Prevention Strategies
- Per Governor's Order - Five Days of in-person instruction
- Any need for closure will be directed by the State and Local Health Department or Executive Order
- Schools, teachers and students will be prepared for virtual environment IF needed
- Zoom and Schoology



Return to School

Forms

- BOY Forms
 - Emergency Care (updated in weCare)
 - Health Information Form
 - Computer Opt-out
 - Digital Tool Permission Form
- 7th Grade Immunization Requirement
 - All students entering 7th grade are *required* to receive one dose of each of the following immunizations prior to the beginning of school: Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis booster (Tdap), and Meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY).



After School Program (ASP) Information

- After School Specialist: Colleen Taylor
- The ASP is free!
- September 20th: First day of after-school activities and late buses
- Club/activity information will be posted on Schoology in the coming weeks

Late Bus Information

- Late buses are provided on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
 - Parent pick-up or walking home is required for Tuesday and Friday activities (no later than 4:15pm.)
- Late buses will depart Thoreau at *approximately* 4:30-5:00 pm.
Times are subject to change.
- Late bus runs differ from the morning and afternoon runs. There are fewer buses and stops. Late bus runs will be posted in the front lobby, by the cafeteria, and on Schoology.



Colleen Taylor can be reached at CMTaylor1@fcps.edu or 703-846-8089.

Schoology Parent Night- TONIGHT!

- The Madison Pyramid will be hosting a virtual Schoology Community Town Hall meeting on **Wednesday, August 18th at 6:00 pm.**
- A link will be provided around 5pm on August 18th.
- There will be a form for the submission of questions that will be live during the presentation. You can access the form [here](#).
- If you are unable to attend, we will post a recording of the town hall on our website.



New Student Orientation, Thursday August 19



- We are hosting an in-person orientation for all 7th, new 8th graders, and 8th graders who were virtual last school year.
- Students will visit with each of their teachers and transition between classroom locations.
- This is a student-only event.
- Transportation is provided. Bus runs will pick up and return students to their base elementary school. Parents are welcome to use the Kiss-and-Ride lane.

Open House, Thursday August 19

Families last names A-K; 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Families last names L-Z; 3:30 PM- 5:00 PM

All Thoreau Middle School students and families are invited to join us for our Open House where you will be able to:

- Pick up a copy of your class schedule, walk the building to locate your classes, and meet your teachers
- Learn about after school programs and activities
- Drop off medical forms and medications to our clinic
- Pick up pre-ordered school supply kits from our PTA, join the PTA and get spirit wear!
- Use MySchoolBucks to pay class fees
- Get assistance in setting up ParentVue



Virtual Back to School Night

Wednesday September 1

The Thoreau Administration will be hosting a live session at 5:30 PM to discuss our vision for the year and priorities, along with school-wide grading practices.

We will also provide answers to frequently asked questions and ensure that parents know who they can contact for support throughout the year.

All teacher presentations, syllabus and curriculum info will be pre-recorded and shared virtually for you to be able to access and navigate at a time of your choosing.



Back to School Night Topics

- Grading: Late Work, Homework, SIS Comment codes
- Schoology (All School Course)= Eagle Landing
- After School Activities
- Counselor Contacts
- Admin contacts- who works with each team!



Questions?



Thank you for Attending!

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure a successful start to the school year!

